

MESSAGE FORM

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Approved For Release 2004/10/28 : CIA-RDP80R01720R000800030038-6

ORIG: GACarver, Jr.
 UNIT: DCI/SAVA
 EXT:
 DATE: 5Jan73

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RYBAT CODELREFS: A.

B.

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1. SENATOR BIRCH BAYH (D. IND.) CAME TO HQS. ON 5 JANUARY FOR ~~TWO HOUR~~ PRE-DEPARTURE CONVERSATION WITH SESSION EVOLVED INTO GENERAL OVERVIEW OF INDOCHINA AREA WITH SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS OF CURRENT SITUATION IN THE PHILIPPINES, THAILAND, LAOS, CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM (NORTH AND SOUTH).

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2. PHILIPPINE DISCUSSION WAS QUITE CURSORY. WE SKETCHED HOW SOCIETY WAS STRUCTURED AND THE K IMPACT OF ITS ESSENTIALLY MALAY CULTURE OVERLAID BY THIN SPANISH AND THEN AMERICAN

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3. THAI PORTION WAS DEVOTED TO STRUCTURE AND BACKGROUND OF CURRENT GOVERNMENT, ROLE OF THE MONARCHY AND THE WAY

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INDOCHINA AND THE WORLD BEYOND LOOKED WHEN VIEWED FROM BANGKOK'S PERSPECTIVE. WE TOUCHED LIGHTLY ON THE INTERNAL INSURGENCY AND SOMEWHAT MORE EXTENSIVELY ON THE DANGERS THE THAI GOVERNMENT CLEARLY PERCEIVES IN CHINA'S POSSIBLE INTENTIONS (A PERCEPTION REINFORCED BY THE CHINESE ROAD) AND/OR NORTH VIETNAMESE INTENTIONS, PARTICULARLY IF HANOI SHOULD EMERGE VICTORIOUS FROM THE INDOCHINA STRUGGLE.

4. ON LAOS, WE POINTED OUT HOW (AND WHY) THAT COUNTRY'S MAJOR PROBLEMS WERE ROOTED IN HANOI'S AGGRESSIVE AMBITIONS AND THE PRESENCE OF NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS. WE ALSO EXPLAINED WHY THE CURRENT LAO NEGOTIATIONS WERE PROBABLY BEING KEPT BY THE COMMUNISTS IN A HOLDING ~~BOX~~ PATTERN PENDING FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE VIETNAM NEGOTIATING ARENA.

5. ON CAMBODIA, WE GAVE A BRIEF SITUATION RUNDOWN TRYING TO BE AS UPBEAT AS POSSIBLE (UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES) BUT WITHOUT GILDING ANY LILIES.

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6. ON VIETNAM, WE DREW ATTENTION TO THE GVN'S, AND ARVN'S, IMPRESSIVE RECORD OF OVERALL, OR NET, PERFORMANCE OVER THE PAST YEAR, PARTICULARLY SINCE 30 MARCH. WE ALSO NOTED HOW MUCH INTERNAL, DOMESTIC SUPPORT THIEU HAD GARNERED (EVEN FROM THOSE SUCH AS AN QUANG WHO NORMALLY OPPOSE HIM) BY VIRTUE OF HIS STANCE OF INSISTING THAT SOUTH VIETNAM'S LEGITIMATE RIGHTS BE PROTECTED IN ANY NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. FOR OBVIOUS REASONS WE STAYED AS FAR AWAY AS POSSIBLE FROM THE TOPIC OF NEGOTIATIONS, BUT DID EXPLAIN HOW HANOI WAS ATTEMPTING TO USE THE PROCESS OF SETTLEMENT AS A DEVICE FOR EXACERBATING (AND, IF POSSIBLE, RUPTURING) THE CLOSE BOND BETWEEN SAIGON AND WASHINGTON WHICH WAS ESSENTIAL FOR ANY GVN TRYING TO RESIST COMMUNIST AGGRESSION.

7. SESSION WAS RELAXED AND INFORMAL THROUGHOUT. BAYH WAS LOW KEY AND CORDIAL. AS YOU KNOW, HE IS A LIBERAL

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DEMOCRAT WITH A PUBLIC ANTI-WAR STANCE. WE DOUBT IF WE CHANGED HIS MIND ON ANY BASIC ISSUE, BUT HIS DEMEANOR WAS CERTAINLY FRIENDLY AND ON DEPARTING HE WAS QUITE WARM IN HIS THANKS FOR THE SESSION.

8. ABOVE IS FYI ONLY SO YOU WILL KNOW LINE TAKEN AND ATMOSPHERICS HERE SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY DEALINGS WITH BAYH DURING COURSE OF HIS TRIP. E2, IMPDET, WN-SISM / END OF MESSAGE

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VNO

*Requested to be advised if any of the Senators, soon to be visiting Saigon be given special attention.

**Stated that between 6 and 28 January, several Members of Foreign Operations Sub-Committee of Senate Appropriations Committee will be travelling to different areas.

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C/FE

George A. Carver, Jr.
DCI/SAVA

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